

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK MONTHLY PROGRAMS

PARK HOURS:

Sunday – Thursday: 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
365 days a year

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Monday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ADMIN. OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARK FEES:

\$6 vehicle day-use entry fee (no additional fees for programs, unless otherwise noted)

DIRECTIONS:

FROM THE NORTH: Take 303 South and exit at Peoria Ave. Take Peoria west (right) to Cotton Lane. Turn south (left) on Cotton and then west (right) on Olive Ave. Follow Olive Ave. 6 miles to park entrance.

FROM THE SOUTH: Take I-10 to 303 North. Exit 303 at Northern Ave. Turn west (left) on Northern to Cotton Lane. Turn north (right) on Cotton and then west (left) on Olive Ave. Follow Olive Ave. 6 miles to park entrance.

WEBSITE:

www.maricopa.gov/parks/white_tank/

STAFF:

Park Supervisor: Raymond Schell

Interpretive Ranger: Jessica Bland

Admin. Staff: Pam Ueckerman

Park Maintenance: Eldon Heydenreich and Lloyd Anderson

MESSAGE FROM THE PARK SUPERVISOR:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in White Tank Mountain Regional Park. We realize that you have a choice when it comes to selecting recreation venues and appreciate your business!



Maricopa County

Parks and Recreation Dept.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park
20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road
Waddell, AZ 85355

Phone: (623) 935-2505

www.maricopa.gov/parks/white_tank/

whitetankpark@mail.maricopa.gov

JANUARY 2015 FEATURED PROGRAMS

Gettin' Fit on Ford (Canyon, that is)

Date: 1/1/2015 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Start the new year off right by joining Ranger Jessica on a morning fitness hike along the Ford Canyon Trail. Portions of this hike are rated extremely difficult and involve hiking and climbing through a rugged canyon filled with large boulders and slick rock areas. Our turn-around spot will be the Ford Canyon Dam, where we will rest and learn a little about the history of the White Tank Mountains. The hike length is 6 miles roundtrip. This hike is not appropriate for young children or pets. Please make sure you have a snack and at least one gallon of water for the hike. Please call ahead if you have questions about what you need to bring. Please meet at Area 9.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Sunrise Hike

Date: 1/8/2015 **Time:** 7:15 a.m.

Description: Set your alarm and get a great start to the day! Join a park volunteer for a sunrise hike along the Black Rock Long Loop Trail (1 ½ miles). You will have the opportunity to see the sunrise from a viewpoint, experience the Sonoran Desert as it awakens, and also see ancient petroglyphs along the trail. Please leave your dog at home. Please meet promptly at Area 4. Don't be late – the sun won't wait!

Core: Archaeology & History

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Early Bird Walk and Program

Date: 1/17/2015 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.

Description: Join birder Joe Ford from the Sonoran Audubon Society on an early morning



bird walk along the Ford Canyon Trail to look and listen for the many birds that live in and pass through the White Tanks. After the walk, Joe will be presenting his program, Canaries in the Coal Mine, in the Nature Center classroom. This slideshow program discusses the decline of bird species in North America and especially the Southwest, what is causing the decline, and what we can do about it. Join Joe for the walk, the program, or both. Please meet at Area 9 for the walk. Bring your bird book if you have one. Binoculars may be available to borrow. The walk begins at 8:30 a.m., and the program begins at 11 a.m.

Core: Animals

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Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration and Sampler

Date: 1/30/2015 **Time:** 5 p.m.

Description: Calling all Dutch oven cooks and aspiring cooks! Join us around the campfire for an introduction to Dutch oven cooking, an age-old cooking technique that can be a delicious addition to your outdoor recreation experience. Watch local Dutch oven cooks prepare their favorite recipes, learn some tricks of the trade, and get a taste or two when the vittles are done. Bring a chair for some sittin'-around time around the campfire. Bring a picnic dinner, or a grill will be available if you would like to bring your own food to grill. Program will be held at Area 7. If you would like to participate in the Dutch oven demonstration as a cook, please contact Ranger Jessica at jessicabland@mail.maricopa.gov or by calling the park Nature Center at (623) 935-2505.

Core: Outdoor Skills

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MONTHLY EVENTS

Gettin' Fit on Ford (Canyon, that is)

Date: 1/1/2015 **Time:** 7 a.m.

Description: Start the new year off right by joining Ranger Jessica on a morning fitness hike along the Ford Canyon Trail. Portions of this hike are rated extremely difficult and involve hiking and climbing through a rugged canyon filled with large boulders and slick rock areas. Our turn-around spot will be the Ford Canyon Dam, where we will rest and learn a little about the history of the White Tank Mountains. The hike length is 6 miles roundtrip. This hike is not appropriate for young children or pets. Please make sure you have a snack and at least one gallon of water for the hike. Please call ahead if you have questions about what you need to bring. Meet at Area 9.

Core: Health & Fitness

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Snake Feeding

Date: 1/2/2015 **Time:** 3 p.m.

Description: Have you ever seen a snake eat its dinner? Join us in the Nature Center to watch park staff feed our resident creatures, including rattlesnakes, scorpions, a Gila monster, a black widow, and a tarantula.

Core: Animals

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Family Moonlight Hike

Date: 1/2/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: See the desert in a different light – moonlight! Load up the kids and join us for a 1 ½ mile walk on the Black Rock Long Loop Trail. We will look for scorpions and experience the desert at night. Bring your scorpion light and wear close-toed shoes. Please leave your dog at home.

Core: Entertainment & Social Skills

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Early Bird Walk and Program

Date: 1/3/2015 **Time:** 8:30 a.m.

Description: Join birder Joe Ford from the Sonoran Audubon Society on an early morning bird walk along the Ford Canyon Trail to look and listen for the many birds that live in and pass through the White Tanks. After the walk, Joe will be presenting his program, Canaries in the Coal Mine, in the Nature Center classroom. This slideshow program discusses the decline of bird species in North America and especially the Southwest, what is causing the decline, and what we can do about it. Join Joe for the walk, the program, or both. Please meet at Area 9 for the walk. Bring your bird book if you have one. Binoculars may be available to borrow. The walk begins at 8:30am, and the program begins at 11:00am.

Core: Animals

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Adult Moonlight Hike

Date: 1/3/2015 **Time:** 7 p.m.

Description: See the desert in a different light – moonlight! Join us for a 1 ½ mile walk on the Black Rock Long Loop Trail. We will look for scorpions and experience the desert at night. Bring your scorpion light and wear close-toed shoes. Please leave your dog at home. This hike is limited to those 16 and older.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Sunrise Hike

Date: 1/8/2015 **Time:** 7:15 a.m.

Description: Set your alarm and get a great start to the day! Join a park volunteer for a sunrise hike along the Black Rock Long Loop Trail (1 ½ miles). You will have the opportunity to see the sunrise from a viewpoint, experience the Sonoran Desert as it awakens, and also see ancient petroglyphs along the trail. Please leave your dog at home. Please meet promptly at Area 4. Don't be late – the sun won't wait!

Core: Health & Fitness

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Native American Legends

Date: 1/9/2015 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Description: Please join us for an evening of stories under the stars. Listen to various Native American stories, which were traditionally told during the winter months. This great family event will be held at the outdoor amphitheater behind the Nature Center/Library.

Core: Archaeology & History

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"Desert General Store" Walk

Date: 1/10/2015 **Time:** 9 a.m.

Description: The Sonoran Desert is home to many plants and animals that have been used by people for thousands of years for food, medicine, and other essentials. Some of the products we consume and use even today have their origins in the desert. Join Ranger Jessica on a short "shopping trip" along the Black Rock Short Loop Trail (1/2 mile, barrier-free) to see and learn about some of these fascinating plants. After the walk, we will have the opportunity to try a few samples of food and drink made from Sonoran Desert plants.

Core: Plants

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Sonoran Story, Craft, and Play Time

Date: 1/14/2015 **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

Description: Join Ranger Jessica in the Nature Center classroom for this open house-style story, craft, and play time – arrive anytime during program hours (10:30-12:00). A variety of age-appropriate board books, toys, and coloring sheets about the Sonoran Desert will be available for you and your child for learning, discovery, and creative play. A desert-themed craft will also be available for your child to complete and take home. Maybe Ranger Jessica will even introduce you to one of the friendly snakes that live at the Nature Center! This program is geared toward toddler and preschool-aged children and caregivers.

Core: Animals

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Snake Feeding

Date: 1/17/2015 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Description: Have you ever seen a snake eat its dinner? Join us in the Nature Center to watch park staff feed our resident creatures, including rattlesnakes, scorpions, a Gila monster, a black widow, and a tarantula.

Core: Animals

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Black Rock Archaeology Walk

Date: 1/19/2015 **Time:** 8 a.m.

Description: Join park volunteer Joe Weber

on this easy, 1 ½ mile walk to view ancient petroglyphs. The hike will discuss early native peoples of the area and the possible meanings of the rock art symbols they left behind. Meet at Area 4. Please leave your dog at home.

Core: Archaeology & History

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Library Series – What About Water?

Date: 1/24/2015 **Time:** 2 p.m.

Description: As desert dwellers, we all know that water is a precious resource. Join Ranger Jessica in the library classroom for an interactive program about the past, present, and future of water use in the Valley of the Sun, from the prehistoric Hohokam canals to our modern water delivery system that harnesses water from hundreds of miles away to supply our growing city. The presentation and associated activities will focus on increasing awareness of water use and management in the West as well as how our actions as individuals and communities affect the world around us, today and into the future. Take home some tips about how you can be a water hero in your community!

Core: Archaeology & History

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Desert Plant Walk

Date: 1/29/2015 **Time:** 10 a.m.

Description: Join a park volunteer on this easy, ½ mile walk on a barrier-free trail (wheelchair and stroller friendly) to learn about the fascinating plants of the Sonoran Desert, their adaptations, and their relationships with one another. The discussion is science-focused and may not interest young children. Please leave your dog at home. Meet at Area 4.

Core: Plants

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Snake Feeding

Date: 1/30/2015 **Time:** 3 p.m.

Description: Have you ever seen a snake eat its dinner? Join us in the Nature Center to watch park staff feed our resident creatures, including rattlesnakes, scorpions, a Gila monster, a black widow, and a tarantula.

Core: Animals

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Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration and Sampler

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jessicabland@mail.maricopa.gov or by calling the park Nature Center at (623) 935-2505.

Core: Outdoor Skills